

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, March 8. 1707.

IN our last I advanc'd an odd Notion, *as least I expect on first Reading, it should be thought so*; that in Prosecution of the War in *Poland*, the *Swedes* shall be worsted — Indeed I cannot but insist upon it, and that 'tis my Opinion, he will be at last obliged to abandon his new King, and the whole Enterprize with no manner of Applause, much less Advantage.

But because every General, they say, is liable to Exception, and this seems a new Conclusion, against which some Difficulties may be rais'd, I shall enter into them a little.

Two things may bring the *Swede* handsomely off from this War, and if none of them happen, I see nothing before him but a tedious unprofitable Enterprize.

First, A Peace with the Czar of *Muscovy*, and thereby drawing him off from the assisting the new King, he has set up in *Poland*. And tho' 'tis true this is possible, yet I do not see upon what Terms the *Swede* can make a Peace with him on the least Points of Honour, without recovering *Narva*, and the rest of the Towns on the *Baltick*, which he is possess'd of. If he leaves them to the *Muscovite*, he abandons his Honour to the Czar's Victory, and leaves him in Peace, with a Door open to make himself formidable to *Europe*, and to himself in particular; and what Honour he will get by that, any Man may judge off.

If he will recover those Conquests from the Czar, he must quit *Poland* to do it; for the Czar has so strengthened himself there, that

that 'tis not a small Force will dislodge him ; and if it be not very quickly done, I question, if it will be practicable at all, and future Ages may have Cause to reflect upon the Conduct of the *Swedes* more in that Article than enough ; who, while he has been prosecuting a fruitless War in *Poland*, abandon'd *Livonia*, one of the most fertile and advantageous Countries, both as to Trade and Strength, to the Mercy of his Enemy, who has thereby gotten an Inlet by Sea to all *Europe*, from which he was effectually excluded before.

I cannot therefore foresee, how the *Swede* can bring the *Czar* to a Peace, without quitting *Poland* to him or *Livonia*—— Victory, which brings other Monarchs to Peace, will not do here. The *Czar*, by being beaten is only kept from over-running *Europe* ; for his vast Dominions and his absolute Authority are inexhaustible Mines of Strength to him ; to push him into his own Country, is impracticable. The *Romans*, in the Pursuit of the *Parthians*, ruin'd the best Army, that fought in that Age of the World, nor could they ever make any Conquests there : Nature defies Art, when she comes to oppose Desolation to Desolation ; War is at an End, when you come to Woods and Wilderesses. 'Twould be just a *Parthian* War, for the *Swedes* to invade *Muscovy* ; as the Heats ruin'd the *Romans* there, the Colds and Damps, and unpassable Country would do the like here,

At last, suppose the *Swede* had pierc'd even to *Muscow*, the Conquest would be, 1st. Good for nothing, and not worth his while, 2^{dly}. Imperfect, and must end so ; because the *Czar*, who has a Dominion of 2000 mile Extent, would have such Countries to retreat to, such Multitudes so surround him with, that as fast as they kill'd them, they would, like the Story of *Cadmus*, rise again in Armies, as if they came out of the Ground.

Nothing therefore but Peace and Defensive War can bring the Affair to an End with the *Muscovite* ; and to pursue the War upon him beyond it, is a Madness, no wise Prince will be guilty of.

2^{dly}. The next thing, that may bring the *Swede* handsomely off, must be some Enterprize on the new made King and his Party, and such a general Possession of the Coun-

try, as that the Nobility shall be brought off from prosecuting this War. In short, 'tis the bringing the *Czar* off from them, or them off from the *Czar* ; were either of these done, the thing would be at an End— And on this Account, it is to me a most unaccountable Mystery, what the two Kings have been doing in *Saxony* all this while ? — By which they have given the *Czar* Opportunity to debauch the Nobility, to make Parties, possess the Country, fortifie the Towns, and oppress his Friends.

Had the King of *Sweden*, as soon as the Peace with King *Augustus* was made, sent King *Stanislaus* Home to *Warsaw* with 15 or 20000 *Swedes* to his Assistance, he might have broken the Neck of this new Confederacy, appear'd at their Election himself at the Head of his Army, and told them in good *Swedish*, who was to be their King.

But to stay and winter in *Saxony*, and let the *Czar*, a vigilant and forward Prince, enter his Kingdom, support his Enemies, and form them into a perfect Body, with a new King regularly erected : I must own, as far as these things can be judg'd of at this Distance, it seems altogether unaccountable, and sinks the Reputation of the *Swedish* Councils so in the World, that not so much will for the future be expected from their Politicks.

We have seen the *Swede* employ'd now for about six Year to establish a King in *Poland*, and when with infinite Ravages and Desolation of a poor ruin'd Country, he has brought the *Saxon* to submit ; one mismanag'd Winter has unravel'd all his Work, and the whole War is to begin again ; a new King, and perhaps more dangerous than the former, is started up like an Exhalation, and his King hardly has one Province in *Poland* in his Possession——

What a Stage-Play do the arbitrary Princes of the Earth make of a War, when their Ambition and Lust of Power leads them to pursue, what they call their Glory, and what Pleasure do they take to sacrifice Nations to their Personal or Publick Animosity ? The War here seems to me to be not a War for *Poland*, or against *Poland*, but a War in *Poland*——— 'Tis a War between the *Muscovites* and the *Swedes*, and unhappy *Poland*

Poland is the Theater of Blood between them both; they aft the Defolation, and the *Poles* fuffer it.

Were the *Poles* in their Sences, they would, as one Man, rife in Arms, and thruft them both out of their Country, and I am perfwaded one Time or other, that will be the Ifue of the War; the Extremities of the People muft force them to it, Neceffity has but that one Law to have Recourfe to in this Cafe, and no doubt it would fucceed, if they practis'd it.

Here the *Swede* fets up one ambitious Nobleman, and calls him a *King*; the *Muscovite* fets up another there, and the whole Nation muft be deftroy'd, only to determine which fhall be the Man, and yet both fides own, the People have the Right to choofe him. *Unhappy Poland!* If thou wer't wife, thou wouldeft rife at once, dethrone them

both, and bid the two fighting Heroes go Home, and box it out in their own Countries? and if they muft have Seas of Blood to fwim into the *Inchanted Ifland of empty Glory*, let that Blood be of their own People, if they have fo little Wit as to bear it; but as for *Poland*, they have neither of them any Buſineſs there, no Title, no Pretence to any Part of it, and all the reſt is Ambition, Robbery and Invaſion.

Was ever a flouriſhing Nation ruin'd for ſuch Shams and Pretences of War before? What Sort of People muſt the *Poles* be, that no Sufferings will make them wiſe? certainly, if ever they are brought to their Underſtandings, they will be very furious in avenging theſe things, and their dear bought Liberty will be the more valuable to them.

MISCELLANEA.

IN my treating of employing the Poor, while I objected againſt the Methods propoſed by projecting Heads for the settling that Point, and ſhewed how deſtructive theſe Methods were to the publick Good, it ſeem'd a rational Enquiry for any one to make, thus,

You ſay, to employ the Work-houſes and Vagrant Poor in the Manufactures, is an Injury to our Trade, and yet you own, they ſhould be employ'd. Pray, what would you have them employ'd in, and how?

To this I began to propoſe a thing, which, without Prejudice to my former Conclusion, which I ſtill believe will hold good, viz. That there is no Want of Work, but of Hands to perform it, I ſhall here purſue a little.

If you will have Manufactures ſet up for the employing the Poor, and ſetting them to work in the ſeveral Pariſhes, why may it not be on ſome ſuch Manufactures, as is not already made in *England*, or for which our Manufactures here are not exchang'd in Trade? This indeed would be ſomething to be defended, this would be to take the Bread out of the Mouths of Foreigners,

and put it into the Mouths of our own People.

And that I might not be at a Loſs to inſtance in a Article of Trade, liable to no Exception, I propoſ'd the Manufacture of Cotton into Callicoes, Muſlins, &c. To examine this a little, theſe Particulars will appear to make it not only a feaſible but a profitable Propoſal.

1. The Cotton, from whence this may be done, may be furniſh'd by our own Plantations, and the Experience of the beſt Artiſts in that Affair informs us, that our Cotton is better for that Uſe, than any that has been brought either from *Turkey* or *India*——As it may come from our Plantations, 'tis equally our own Growth, as the Wool of *Salisbury Plain*, or the *South Downs*, and the Improvement of it equally an Encreaſe of the General and Capital Stock of the Country.
2. The Callicoes and Muſlins, which are now uſed in *England*, are exported from the *East-Indies*, a Trade exceedingly clamour'd at, and I muſt own without good Reaſon, for carrying away our ready Money.